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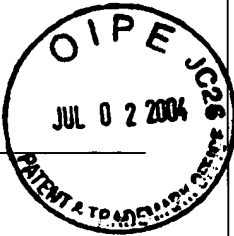
6/30/04

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:

Nancy Pizzo

NANCY PIZZO



PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 020979-002400US

Customer No. 20350

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

RONALD G. FRENCH et al.

Application No.: 09/963,848

Filed: September 25, 2001

For: PERICARDIUM REINFORCING DEVICES AND  
METHODS FOR USING THEM

Examiner: U. CHATTOPADHYAY

Art Unit: 3738

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §§1.97  
and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The reference cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A is being called to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the reference is enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited reference be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Also enclosed is a copy of the International Search Report corresponding to PCT Application No. PCT/US02/30689.

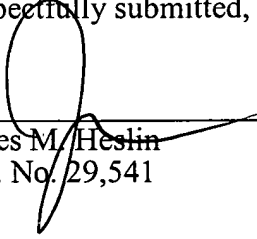
As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no

representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement.

However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet **3**

of

**Complete if Known**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number     | 09/963,848         |
| Filing Date            | September 25, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor   |                    |
| Art Unit               | 3738               |
| Examiner Name          | U. CHATTOPADHYAY   |
| Attorney Docket Number | 020979-002400US    |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS+ |             |  |                                |  |   |
|------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials*  | Cite<br>No. | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                        |             | Number Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                        | AA          | US-5,256,132                             | 10-26-1993                     | Snyders  |   |
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|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date<br>Considered |  |
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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